

EPA Region 6's Environmental Services Branch Laboratory (Houston Lab)

State & Tribe Assistance

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- The Houston Lab has continuously provided crucial support to states for a variety of issues/incidents, many of which made national news and garnered significant congressional interest.
- Region 6 respectfully requests that the Houston Lab's lease be renewed and continue to function in its current capacity.
- Ongoing assistance with Trafalgar Road fire in Bella Vista, AR, including providing technical assistance and sampling support.
- In response to Hurricane Harvey, provided vital support to the Texas CEQ, including rapid response to numerous Superfund sites, deployment of TAGA and PHILIS, and assisting with drinking water samples.
- Per the Texas CEQ's request, provided around the clock analysis services for 200+ drinking water samples collected during the Corpus Christi drinking water incident. Also developed two new, time critical, analytical chemistry methods, to detect Indulin AA-86 that was suspected of contaminating the city's drinking water distribution system.
- Provided variety of assistance during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including (1) performing drinking water analyses while state lab was not operational, (2) performing quick turn-around testing of flood waters for coliforms and E. coli, (3) conducting lead and copper testing, and (4) deploying the mobile laboratory.
- Quickly provided extensive analyses in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident and co-developed a method to test for a key component of the dispersant used on the oil.
- In response to the Gold King Mine incident, the Houston Lab aided a private lab that had issues due to their limited capacity and was able to priority analyze 2 sets of 11 samples with final reports provided within 48 hours of receipt.
- Assisted Oklahoma DEQ with sample analysis during the Red River fish kill investigation and engaged ORD in a research project to help identify the source of the fish kills.
- Responsible for certification of State and Tribal Drinking Water Laboratories. Each state has a lab certified by the Houston Lab, as well as the Pueblo of Sandia.
- When the Craft-Turney Water Supply Corporation issued a Do Not Use order on 16 connections, the Houston Lab assisted the Texas CEQ with drinking water sample analyses.
- Providing lead analytical services for the 3Ts (Training, Testing, Telling) for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools Project with ~1,000 samples to be collected from drinking water fountains at 85 tribal schools.
- Supports Region 6's Tribal SDWA Program by conducting annual lead and copper analyses.